

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NATO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

REF: USNATO 2824

SUMMARY: ITALIAN DELGATION PRESENTS NEW PROPOSAL. USNATO PLANS TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR PRESENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM. END SUMMARY:

1. ITALIAN DELEGATION HAS CIRCULATED NEW PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF NATO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM. WOULD MAKE TWO CHANGES IN PRESENT PROGRAM:

A. MOST AWARDS WOULD BE FOR TWO MONTHS RATHER THAN FOUR TO SIX MONTHS, WITH RESULT OF RESEARCH IN MOST CASES BEING AN ARTICLE RATHER THAN A BOOK.

B. THE NATO INFORMATION SERVICE WOULD ATTEMPT TO INCREASE THE DISSEMINATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH BY:

(1) ORGANIZING MEETINGS AFTER THE TWO-MONTH TERMS OF THE GRANTS AT WHICH THE RESEARCHERS WOULD DISCUSS THEIR FINDINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE NATO COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS.

(2) ARRANGING FOR PUBLICATION OF THE BEST ARTICLES, PERHAPS IN A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE NATO REVIEW.

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(3) CIRCULATING THESE ARTICLES TO UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE GROUPS.

2. FRENCH HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THEIR OPPOSITION TO THIS

PROPOSAL ON GROUNDS THAT IT COULD CHANGE CHARACTER OF PROGRAM FROM SUBSIDY FOR SERIOUS SCHOLARLY ENDEAVOR TO A PURCHASE OF JOURNALISTIC OR PROPAGANDISTIC OUTPUT. THEY SAY SUCH A PROGRAM COULD NO LONGER CORRECTY BE CALLED A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, THAT IT WOULD MEAN THAT NATO NO LONGER HAD A CULTURAL PROGRAM.

3. WHILE WE HAVE NEVER THOUGHT THAT NATO NEEDED A CULTURAL PROGRAM, FRENCH OBJECTIONS HERE SEEM REASONABLE. WE AGREE THAT A TWO-MONTH GRANT IS NOT LIKELY TO ATTRACT SCHOLARS OF MERIT TO UNDERTAKE SERIOUS RESEARCH. THE MEETINGS PROPOSED BY THE ITALIANS WOULD BE EXPENSIVE IN TRAVEL COSTS AND ARE UNLIKELY TO YIELD SIGNIFICANT RESULTS. WE WOULD SUPPORT, HOWEVER, ANY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GREATER DISSEMINATION OF NATO-SPONSORED RESEARCH.

4. ONLY ONES WHO MIGHT FAVOR ITALIAN PROPOSAL ARE BRITISH, CANADIANS, AND PERHAPS OTHERS WHO COULD SEE THIS AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD KILLING THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

5. IN PAST TWO YEARS, FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM HAS BECOME MORE OBJECTIVE-ORIENTED AND QUALITY OF APPLICATIONS HAS IMPROVED. THEREFORE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE Y JUNE 20 CICR MEETING, AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD JOIN FRENCH IN OPPOSING ITALIAN PROPOSAL AND FAVORING CONTINUATION OF PRESENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM. THIS IS THE POSITION TOWARD WICH MOST DELEGATIONS SEEM TO BE MOVING. STREATOR

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